

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Below is the entire set of pending claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(3)(i), with mark-ups showing the changes made in the present Amendment.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming ~~an image~~ a security card, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a substrate having at least one a reflective region thereon covering a portion of the substrate that is substantially less than the entire surface of the substrate, wherein the reflective region comprises a metal film suitable for increasing the visibility of an overlying security image;

b) thermally depositing identification details onto the substrate; and

c) selectively depositing a protective layer of plastics material over the reflective region so as to form an image therein, onto the substrate so as to protect the identification details, and selectively depositing the protective layer over the reflective region so as to form the security image thereon.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 2, wherein the metal film is printed onto the substrate.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3, in which the metal film is provided on a carrier film and is brought into contact with the substrate at a printing station and transferred to the substrate.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protective layer of plastics material is provided on a carrier film and in which a plurality of heater elements

are provided on a thermal print head, and in which the heater elements are energized when the carrier film is in contact with the substrate to transfer the plastics material to the substrate.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, in which the heating elements are energized to deposit a continuous layer of the plastics material over the whole of an ~~the~~ area to be covered that is not covered by the reflective region such that the plastics material serves as a protective coating.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 6, in which selected regions of the plastics material are heated to a greater degree than other areas so as to vary a ~~the~~ surface appearance of the ~~plasties~~ protective layer.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, in which the full thickness of the plastics ~~film~~ material is deposited and selected portions thereof are overheated so as to give these portions a different appearance.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, in which the overheated portions have a satin appearance.

10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, in which the overheated portions have a matt appearance.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the image is printed over the substrate in a repeating pattern.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the plastics material deposited over the ~~at least one~~ reflective region is heated to a greater degree than is necessary to deposit the plastics material so as to vary the surface appearance thereof.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, in which the regions of plastics material which are heated to a greater degree than necessary to deposit the plastics material have

one of a satin and matt appearance.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the protective layer of plastics material is deposited on the substrate during a printing process, and in which the security image to be formed in the plastics film is held in a memory device readable by one of the printer and a data processor controlling the printer.

15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 14, in which the memory device is a removable device.

16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 14, in which the image is held in an encrypted form.

17. (Original) A surface printed in accordance with the method of claim 1.

18. (Currently Amended) A printed item, said item ~~comprising~~having a substrate ~~bearing on at least a portion thereof a reflective element~~ having a first surface, wherein a reflective element is provided on a portion of the first surface that is substantially less than the entire first surface of the substrate, wherein the reflective element comprises a metal film suitable for increasing the visibility of an overlying security image, and where identification details are printed onto the first surface and wherein a plastics layer is selectively deposited over the substrate and is selectively deposited over the reflective element, the optical properties of the plastics layer altered in at least the region overlying the reflective element.

19. (Original) A printed item as claimed in claim 18, in which the plastics layer is deposited as a substantially uniform layer, over those portions of the substrate not carrying the reflective element.

20. (Original) A printed item as claimed in claim 19, in which portions of the plastics layer are overheated in order to change the appearance of those portions.

21. (Original) A printed item as claimed in claim 18, in which the item is an identity card.

22. (Original) A printed item as claimed in claim 18, in which the item is one of a security card, bank card, license and credit card.